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BOROUGH of HUNTINGDON & GODMANCHESTER

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS of the DISTRICT DURING YEAR 1960

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960

by

J.Caldwell L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P & S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

Mr Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

Some increase in the Birth Rate over last year's figures is noted and the rate for the Borough continues to maintain a considerable lead over the National average.

Exactly the same number of Deaths took place in the Borough this year, as did in 1959 and consequently the Death Rate remains practically the same.

As in the neighbouring Borough of Huntingdon, the incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases this year was more than 50% less than in 1959, there being relatively fewer cases reported in both years.

Tenders were invited for the final extensions to the sewerage of the Borough to cater for those properties not initially included in the scheme.

Eight Council flats were completed during the year and by a system of exchanges it was possible to use six of these for Slum Clearance purposes.

Progress was made on the slum clearance programme - thirteen houses being demolished during the year. In addition a number of houses were improved by a system whereby two adjoining substandard dwellings were converted into one modern house.

Private development got well under way and a considerable number of dwellings were completed during the year.

In conclusions, I would like to thank all Members of the Council for their kindness during the past year, and all Officers for their kind help and co-operation.

I am,

Yours obedient Servant,

J.Caldwell.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	4,956 acres
Estimated Population (Mid 1959)	2,680
Estimated Population (Mid 1960)	2,680
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1960 per rate book) ...	822
Rateable Value	25,363
Value of Penny Rate	£101.18s.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M	F	Total
Legitimate	23	29	52
Illegitimate	3	2	5
	26	31	57

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	20.7
Comparability Factor	1.02
Corrected Birth rate per 1,000 esimated population.	20.9
(Ditto for England & Wales)	17.1.

Still Births	M	F	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	1	1	2

Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still) births	33.9
(Ditto for England & Wales)	19.7

Deaths	M	F	Total
(all ages)	13	8	21

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	7.6
Comparability Factor	.93
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	7.2
1,000 estimated population (Ditto England & Wales)	11.5

The following table indicates the trends in the Birth and Death Rate for the Borough over the past 5 years and compares them with those for the County of Huntingdon and for England and Wales.

	Birth Rate					Death Rate				
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Godmanchester B	25.2	22.6	27.6	18.6	20.9	10.9	12.9	5.5	7.3	7.2
Huntingdonshire	18.5	20.3	19.8	19.6	19.7	10.2	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.6
England & Wales	15.7	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.5

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	M	F	Total
legitimate	1	-	1
illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births 17.6

(Ditto for England and Wales ... ... 21.7.

GODMANCHESTER BOROUGH

Causes of Deaths
(Registrar General's List)

List		Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diptheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	-	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	2
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	-
18.	Coronary disease, angina	2	1
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	1	-
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	-
22.	Influenza	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	-	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-
31.	Congential malformations	-	-
32.	Other definedand ill-definded diseases	1	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34.	All other accidents	1	1
35.	Suicide	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	Total	13	8

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register on 31st December, 1960 10

Pulmonary 12 Non-Pulmonary 3

Age Periods	New Cases - Diagnosed				New Cases - Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0.....								
1.....								
5.....								
10.....								
15.....								
20.....								
25.....								
35.....								
45.....								
55.....								
65 and upwards								
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	8
Diphtheria	-
Measles	5
Acute Pneumonia	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Tyhoid Fever	-
Erysipelas	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Infective Hepatitis	6
Food Poisoning	1
Dysentery	-
Total	30

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratory Facilities have been available to the Authority and to the General Practioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road Cambridge (Tel: Cambridge 55526)

Public Analyst (S.Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.) Tennison Road, Cambridge (Tel: Cambridge 2097)

(b) Ambulance Services

Ambulances administered by the County Council Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel: Huntingdon 348)

(c) Home Nursing

A Nurse/Midwife residing in Godmanchester (Tel: Huntingdon 609) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carries out Home Nursing and attended Maternity cases in the Borough.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services provided by the Huntingdon County Council were available:-

Clinic	Patients Seen	When Held	Where Held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	Every Monday 9.30 - 10.30 a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 years)	Every Tuesday 2 - 4 p.m.	Old Grammer School, Huntingdon
Dental	Pre-school and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers.	Every Tiesday and Thursday. 9.30 - 12 noon 1,30 - 4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9.a.m. - 12 noon	10a, Princess Street Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

Clinic	Patients Seen	When Held	Where Held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday 10 - 12 noon	County Hospital Huntingdon
Veneral Diseases	All ages	Tuesday 3 - 6.30.p.m. Thursday 4 - 6.30.p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge
	Males	Monday 4.30 - 6.30.pm. Tuesday 5.30. - 7.00.pm.	Out-Patients Department
	Females and Children	Tuesday 10.30 - 12.30.pm. Thursday 4.30 - 6.30.pm.	Memorial Hospital Peterborough

Clinic	Patients Seen	When Held	Where Held
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and Schoolchildren	Every Tuesday 10.am. - 12 noon (Surgeons by Appointment)	Old Grammar School Huntingdon

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:-

Clinic	Patients Seen	When Held	Where Held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and Schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment axecpt in emergency) 10.30.am. - 12 noon 2 - 3.pm.	Old Grammar School Huntingdon

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical Gynaecological and Dental Out- Patients Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Andenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services

Fever - Cases of infectious diseases requiring hosptial treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals, at Cambridge and Peterborough and the Isle of Ely.

General Hospital Services - Are provided by the County Hospital Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases - Maternity facilities are provided at Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and at Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS REPORT, 1960

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

Six families were rehoused during the year. Four of these were fromindividual unfit houses and two from the Pipers Lane - Eanring Street Clearance Area No.2. Twelve unfit houses have been demolished and eight have been made fit as a result of informal action. A survey of properties in Pipers Lane - London Street was undertaken and a programme of clearance and improvement agreed upon.

Approximately half of the 214 houses included in the report submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Govern - ment in 1954 have now been dealt with by demolition of some and improvement of others. The proposals already in hand will deal with a further 20 dwellings.

Council Houses

A further eight flats have been constructed and a flat in Island Hall has been converted into two small flats. The twenty dwellings commenced last year are nearing completion. Three cottages have been purchased for improvement.

The Council Housing List still contains 96 applicants as only three cases other than families from unfit houses have been offered accommodation. The demand is almost equal between those at present sharing accommodation and those in outdated or unfit accommodation.

Private Housing

The Tudor Estate Development has made headway and the total of 14 houses completed by private builders during the year includes 12 on this particular site.

Housing Improvements

The modernisation of 50 houses at Cambridge Villas is now complete leaving only eight Council owned houses still with -out the accepted modern amenities.

Eight Discretionary Grants and four Standard Grants were approved and all except two have been completed.

WATER SUPPLY

The daily consumption of water per head increased to nearly 32 gallons per day. This was due to the continued trend in the modernisation of properties in the Borough.

Twenty-five samples were taken during the year and found to be suitable for human consumtion although small readings were obtained on four of these samples. While an increase in the amount of chlorine used would have meant negative readings on all samples complaints would have then been received of over chlorination in some parts of the Borough.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The main system of sewerage has continued to give little trouble and the Cow Lane Disposal works has given rise to no complaints.

The sewer dykes were well cleaned early in the year but troubles have occurred with the old lenght of sewer still connected to the old system. A contract for the replacement of these sewers in Pipers Lane and St Anns Lane is shortly to be placed.

The bi-weekly collection of night soil continues from those premises still without water closets. Disposal is by flushing into the main sewers.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection of household refuse has continue to be made weekly. A tractor and trailer is manned by two men with occassional help. The same vehicle and men have been used to control the London Road and Cambridge Road tips.

The Cambridge Road tip has worked smoothly except for a small fire on one occassion. The London Road tip is, close to the main road and unauthorised tipping is continually taking place.

STREET CLEANING

One fulltime and three part-time employees have swept County and Borough roads. Gully cleaning has been carried out by Council employees using the tumbril cart and scoop. The same employees have maintained verges and applied weed killer to paths and verges.

RIVER

The usual river bathing took place but the bathing station has been converted into football club dressing rooms.

No report of any case of disease attributable to bathing in the river has been received.

The river banks were cut regularly and treated with weed killer. Less insects were present and the Recreation Ground has become more popular than ever.

There were several floods at the end of the year and on two occassions the level 31' 2" A.O.D was reached. Normal level at this point is 26' 0". No houses were flooded and although the caravan site was flooded the floors of all caravans in use were above water level.

The sewerage pumps at the Avenue Pumping Station were controlled by hand when the river water entered part of the system.

CARAVAN SITES

The new Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act comes into force at the end of the year.

There are three individually licensed caravans and one licenced site for 22 caravans in London Street. The Boathouse Meadow site is continuing on a reduced scale pending a decision from the County Planning Authority.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

The Council's driver is a trained operator and he has continued to make regular treatment of Council tips and other premises upon receipt of complaint. Very few premises have been inspected by routine survey under the Act but many premises have been inspected when visited primarily for other purposes.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

No slaughtering has taken place during the year. The proprietor of the only slaughterhouse in the Borough has notified the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of his intention not to use the slaughterhouse again. The Council have agreed that the needs of the area can be met by the provision of suitable facilities at St Ives. This information was included in the report submitted to the Minster as required under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

Six supplementary licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and eight premises were registered for the sale of Ice Cream. Eight samples of ice-cream were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for testing. The reports on all samples were satifactory.

GENERAL

The proportion of my time spent on Public Health duties has been increased again this year with advantage. The amount of time spent on the items reported upon has however left little time for the inspection of food premises. This is a facet of the Council's Public Health obligations which is due for some priority.

C.W.Parcell.,

M.A.P.H.I, A.R.S.H

Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Act, 1936

(a)	Number of inspections made during the including re-inspections	502
(b)	Number of notices served during the year	37
	1. Informal	37
	2. Statutory	1
	Results of such notices	
	1. Informal	37
	2. Statutory	1

Housing Acts, 1936 - 1958

(a)	Number of inspections made during the year (other than Improvement Grants etc)	410
(b)	Number of notices served during the year.	
	1. Informal	13
	2. Statutory	8
	Result of such notices	
	1. Informal	13
	2. Statutory	8
(c)	Houses in Clearance Areas	
	1. Families rehoused	2
	2. Houses demolished	7
(d)	Individual unfit houses	
	1. Families rehoused	4
	2. Houses demolished	5
	3. Houses closed	0

Improvement Grants

(e)	1. Number of inspections made in connection with improvements on properties ...	98
	2. Number of applications received for Discretionary Grants ...	8
	3. Number of applications approved	8
	4. Number of applications not approved	Nil
	5. Number of properties improved (work completed)	7
	6. Number of applications received for Standard Grant	4
	7. Number of applications approved	4
	8. Number of properties improved (work completed)	5

Duties other than of Public Health nature

	Total number of inspections carried out	797

Rent Act,1957

(a)	Applications for Certificates of Disrepair ...	0
(b)	Decisions to issue Certificates of Disrepair ...	0
(c)	Undertaking accepted from Landlord under Paragraph 5 of 1st Schedule ...	0
(d)	Number of Certificates issued	0

Water Act,1945

(a)	Number of inspections made during the year ...	123
(b)	Number of notices served during the year	Nil
	1. Informal	13
	2. Statutory	Nil
	Result of such notices	
	1. Informal	13
	2. Statutory	Nil

Food and Drugs Acts & Food Hygiene Regulations

(a)	Number of inspections made during the year ...	12
(b)	Action taken under the Food Hygiene Regulations ...	Nil

Factories Act, 1937 - 1949

(a)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	
	Number of Register	6
	Inspections	6
	Notices	Nil
	Complied with	Nil
(b)	Factories not included in (a) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	
	Number on Register	5
	Inspections	5
	Notices	Nil
	Complied with	Nil
(c)	Number of out-workers in August List required by Section 110 (1) (c)	2
	Number of cases of default in sending in List ...	Nil
	Number of instances of work unwholesome premises ...	Nil

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...

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

Number of properties inspected as a result of notifications ...	...	17
No. of properties inspected survey under Act	...	6
No. of properties inspected primarily for other purposes	Approx	600
No. of properties inspected infested with rats	...	18
No. of properties inspected infested with mice	...	3
No. of properties treated by Local Authority	...	21

HUNTINGDON